

*Grant will Provide Security Equipment for 15 Elementary Schools*

October 13, 2009

WASHINGTON-Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office and the Lafourche Parish Public Schools have been awarded \$147,443 in federal funding to enhance school safety programs. Congressman Melancon voted to fund this federal grant and others like it that will help school districts and sheriff's departments nationwide make schools safer.

This grant for Lafourche Parish will be used to purchase 15 computers, 240 cameras and 15 LCD monitors to help improve security at 15 elementary schools in the parish. The grant will fulfill Lafourche Parish Schools' goal of equipping all elementary schools with security equipment.

**"Our children deserve a safe learning environment where they can receive a high quality education and reach their academic goals," Rep. Melancon said. "This grant will give the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office and the school district the tools they need to protect our children and keep violence out of our schools."**

The grant is administered through the federal "Secure Our Schools" (SOS) grant program. The SOS program provides funds to state and local governments to enhance current safety measures and establish new efforts and programs.

Lafourche Parish Schools Superintendent Jo Ann Matthews said, **"Because of our persistence and teamwork with the sheriff's department, this project got off the ground and will provide safety and protect the welfare of the children in our parish. We continuously worked toward our goal, and we are very grateful for this grant that will help keep our children safe."**

Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre added, **"Every dollar that we can obtain and put toward the safety of our schools and children enhances the learning environment for our students, faculty and teachers. This funding opportunity is one of the many strong partnerships between law enforcement and the school district in Lafourche Parish. Installing this equipment in our schools is a proactive approach to securing our schools."**

The "Secure Our Schools" program is administered through the federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program. Congressman Melancon voted to fund COPS grants, such as this grant for Lafourche Parish, when he voted in support of annual funding for the COPS program included in the [Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009](#).

Congressman Melancon has been a strong supporter in Congress of federal funding for [local law enforcement](#)

initiatives like the COPS program that work to engage citizens in crime prevention. Among the local law enforcement initiatives that are supported by the COPS program are community policing development, methamphetamine enforcement, law enforcement technologies, child

sexual predator elimination programs, and the "secure our schools" program, which funded the grant announced today for Lafourche Parish.

For more information about the grants, or to learn about other law enforcement agencies receiving funding, please visit [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov) .

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